

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 /091 W
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R 031646Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12188

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE IN FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION ON
GDR INTERFERENCE IN TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 11816 AND PREVIOUS
(B) USBER 1562

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN THE MOST RECENT TRANSIT COMMISSION
SESSION, THE FRG PROTESTED GDR INTERFERENCE IN TRANSIT
TRAFFIC ON JUNE 16 AND 17. THE GDR RESPONDED BY
JUSTIFYING ITS ACTIONS ON BASIS OF MISUSE PROVISIONS

OF THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE
GDR, THE INTENT OF OCCUPANTS OF THE REJECTED BUSES
TO PARTICIPATE IN ANTI-GDR AGITATION IN WEST BERLIN
AND THE PROVOCATIVE CHARACTER OF TRIP MADE IT
PROBABLE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE MISUSED THE TRANSIT
ROUTES DURING THEIR TRIP.

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ALTHOUGH THE FRG IS NOT PLEASED, OF COURSE, WITH THE
GDR RESPONSE, IT REGARDS SUCH AN ARGUMENT AS PREFERABLE
TO ONE WHICH DOES NOT EVEN PRETEND TO BE JUSTIFIED
BY THE TA. BOTH SIDES NOW HAVE PRESENTED THEIR
CASES, AND THE MATTER WOULD SEEM TO BE CLOSED. END
SUMMARY.

1. AT THE JUNE 29 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (VON RICHTHOFEN) REPORTED ON THE EXCHANGE DURING THE JUNE 28 SESSION OF THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION ON THE GDR TURN-BACKS AND DELAYS OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC ON JUNE 16 AND 17 (REF A). (COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON MEETING POUCHED TO USBER AND EUR/CE.) THE FRG

TRANSIT REP (WULF) PROTESTED THOSE INCIDENTS. HE DECLARED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REASON FOR THE DELAYS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE TURN-BACKED BUSES HAD INTENDED TO MISUSE THE TRANSIT ROUTES.

2. THE GDR TRANSIT REP (FRIEDRICH) DID NOT RESPOND TO THE FRG STATEMENT UNTIL NEAR THE END OF THE SESSION. READING FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT, HE JUSTIFIED THE TURN-BACKS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 16(2) OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PROBABILITY EXISTED THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUSES HAD INTENDED TO MISUSE THE TRANSIT ROUTES. INDICATIONS OF THIS WERE:

(A) THE ANTI-DETENTE, REVANCHIST AND ANTI-GDR AGITATION IN BERLIN (WEST); AND

(B) THE PROVOCATIVE CHARACTER OF THE TRIP TO BERLIN (WEST).

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3. FRIEDRICH SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF THOSE INDICATIONS,

IT WAS PROBABLE THAT THE OCCUPANTS WOULD HAVE MISUSED THE TRANSIT ROUTES DURING THEIR TRIP AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE USED THE TRIP AS A PROVOCATION AND FOR ANTI-GDR DEMONSTRATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS HAD ALSO BEEN CLEAR FROM THE REMARKS OF THE TRIP LEADERS. THE GDR MEASURES HAD THUS BEEN IN COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH THE TA. HE SAID THE GDR WAS AMAZED THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT ANTI-DETENTE FORCES. IT SHOULD BE KNOWN BY NOW THAT THE GDR WAS NOT PREPARED TO TOLERATE MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES FOR ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE GDR.

4. ON THE PROCESSING DELAYS, FRIEDRICH SAID THAT THE CHECKS HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IN ORDER TO HELP PREVENT MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES. THE DELAYS HAD BEEN A RESULT OF THAT; THE ANTI-DETENTE FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE.

5. IN WULF, IN A RESPONSE THAT HAD BEEN COORDI-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12188

NATED IN THE BONN GROUP ON JUNE 23, REPLIED THAT THE
REASONS PROVIDED DID NOT FULFILL THE CONDITIONS
STIPULATED IN THE TA FOR SUCH ACTIONS AS THE GDR
HAD TAKEN. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE POWERS, VIEWED THE
GDR ACTIONS AS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TA.

6. FRIEDRICH RESPONDED THAT THE GDR SAW NO REASON
TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. ITS ACTIONS HAD BEEN IN
CONFORMITY WITH THE TA.

7. VON RICHTHOFEN TOLD THE ALLIED REPS THAT THAT
SEEMED TO BE THE END OF THE AFFAIR. A FINAL DECISION
BY THE FRG WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE FULL REPORT OF
WULF WHEN HE RETURNED FROM EAST BERLIN. AFTER THAT,
THE CHANCELLERY MIGHT DECIDE TO HAVE PERMREP CHIEF
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GAUS RAISE THE MATTER IN EAST BERLIN, BUT HE VIEWED THIS AS UNLIKELY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE ARGUMENTATION USED BY THE GDR WAS PREFERABLE TO ONE WHICH MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE TA OR TO ONE WHICH CLAIMED THAT

"AGITATION IN BERLIN (WEST)" WAS ITSELF SUFFICIENT REASON FOR SUCH ACTIONS AS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GDR.

8. COMMENT: THE EAST APPEARS TO BE CAREFULLY MAINTAINING THE LINE THAT THERE WERE GROUNDS UNDER THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT FOR TURNING BACK THE BUSES. ABRASIMOV HAS EMBELLISHED THIS EVEN FURTHER BY CLAIMING, INCORRECTLY WE ARE TOLD, THAT THERE WERE PLACARDS IN THE BUSES (REF B). WERE THIS SD, THE GDR WOULD HAVE AT LEAST A COLORABLE CASE, SINCE THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT PROHIBITS THE DISSEMINATION OF MATERIAL ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES.

9. THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER APPEARS TO BE CLOSED, BUT EVENTS IN BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 13 OBSERVANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF THE BERLIN WALL COULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR GDR INTERFERENCE. STOESSEL

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